

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN**

INNOVATIVE ACCOUNTING)	
SOLUTIONS, INC., a Michigan)	
corporation, individually and as the)	
representative of a class of similarly-)	
situated persons,)	
)	Case No. 15-cv-793
Plaintiff,)	
)	Hon. Paul L. Maloney
v.)	
)	Mag. Judge Phillip J. Green
CREDIT PROCESS ADVISORS, INC., <i>et</i>)	
<i>al.</i> ,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

**ORDER PRELIMINARILY APPROVING CLASS ACTION
SETTLEMENT AND DIRECTING NOTICE TO SETTLEMENT CLASS**

This matter coming before the Court on Plaintiff's Agreed Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement and Notice to the Settlement Class (the "Motion"), after reviewing and considering the Settlement Agreement, and having been fully advised in the premises, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED and adjudged as follows:

1. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, the settlement of this action, as provided in the Settlement Agreement attached to the Motion, is preliminarily approved as a fair, reasonable, and adequate settlement in the best interests of the Settlement Class, considering the factual, legal, practical, and procedural issues presented in this action. The settlement appears to have resulted from informed, good faith, arm's-length negotiations between the parties, with assistance from the Hon. Phillip J. Green, and is not the product of collusion. The

settlement is within the range of reasonableness. The settling parties have shown that the Court will likely be able to approve the Settlement Agreement under Rule 23(e)(2) and certify the Settlement Class for purposes of entering final judgment. The Settlement Agreement is incorporated by reference into this Order (with capitalized terms as set forth in the Settlement Agreement) and is hereby preliminarily adopted as an Order of this Court.

2. Pursuant to Rule 23, by stipulation of the parties, and for the purposes of settlement, the Court hereby certifies the following “Settlement Class”:

All persons sent one or more telephone facsimile messages on April 8, April 9, April 15, April 16, April 23, or April 24, 2015, about a “Know Your Customer” seminar by Credit Process Advisors to be held on April 29, 2015, at Hawthorn Suites of Troy, Michigan.

3. The Court finds that certification for purposes of settlement is appropriate because (a) the Settlement Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impractical; (b) there are questions of law and fact common to the Settlement Class that predominate over any question affecting only individual class members; (c) Plaintiff’s claims are typical of the claims of the Settlement Class; (d) Plaintiff and its attorneys will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Settlement Class; and (e) a class action is the superior means of resolving this controversy.

4. The Court appoints Innovative Accounting Solutions, Inc. as the “Class Representative” and appoints Phillip A. Bock / Bock Hatch & Oppenheim, LLC and Mark K. Wasvary / Mark K. Wasvary P.C. as “Class Counsel.”

5. On the recommendation and agreement of the parties, the Court appoints Class-Settlement.com as the Settlement Administrator.

6. It appears that the Court will be able to conclude, pursuant to Rule 23(e)(2) and after notice to the Settlement Class, that: (a) the Class Representative and Class Counsel have adequately represented the Settlement Class; (b) the settlement was negotiated at arm's length; (c) the relief provided for the Settlement Class is adequate, taking into account (i) the costs, risks, and delay of trial and appeal, (ii) the effectiveness of the proposed method of distributing relief to the Settlement Class (payment after notice), (iii) the terms of any proposed award of attorney's fees, including timing of payment, and (iv) the Settling Parties submitted copies of the signed Settlement Agreement; and (d) the settlement treats class members equitably relative to each other.

7. Therefore, good cause exists to schedule and conduct a Final Approval Hearing, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(e), to assist the Court in determining whether to grant Final Approval of the Settlement and enter the Final Approval Order, and whether to grant Class Counsel's requested fee and expense award and request for a service award to the Class Representative.

8. The proposed Class Notice attached as Exhibit 2 to the Settlement Agreement informs members of the Settlement Class of the Final Approval Hearing and informs them of their right to request exclusion from the settlement or to object to it. The Court finds that the Class Notice complies with Rule 23, is appropriate, and it is approved and adopted.

9. The Agreement provides and the parties propose that the Class Notice should be sent by facsimile to the Class List.

10. The Court finds that the Settlement Agreement's plan for notifying the Settlement Class by facsimile satisfies Rule 23(c)(2)(B)'s requirement of providing "the best notice that is practicable under the circumstances, including individual notice to all members who can be identified through reasonable effort," and satisfies the requirements of due process. Consequently, the notice plan is approved and adopted, no other notice is necessary, and the Settlement Administrator is Ordered to issue the Class Notice as proposed.

11. Any member of the Settlement Class may request exclusion from the Settlement Class by following the instructions and procedures set forth in the Settlement Agreement and the Class Notice before the expiration of the deadline set below to request exclusion. The Court will rule on all exclusion requests in the Final Approval Order.

12. Any member of the Settlement Class who does not request exclusion may object to the Settlement Agreement, Class Counsel's requested fee award, or the request for an incentive or service award to Plaintiff by following the instructions and procedures set forth in the Settlement Agreement and the Class Notice before the expiration of the deadline set below to object to the settlement.

13. The Court hereby sets the following deadlines and dates for the acts and events set forth in the Settlement Agreement and directs the Parties to incorporate the deadlines and dates in the Class Notice:

(a) The Settlement Administrator shall send the Class Notice by April 16, 2024;

(b) Requests for exclusion from the Settlement Class must be submitted on or before June 10, 2024, or be forever barred; and

(c) Objections and motions to intervene, including supporting briefs, shall be filed in this Court and postmarked and served on Class Counsel and AAB's counsel, on or before June 10, 2024, or be forever barred;

(d) Briefing in support of final approval of the settlement, including attorney's fees and expenses to Class Counsel and the requested service award to Plaintiff shall be filed by September 16, 2024;

(e) Declaration by the Settlement Administrator regarding class notice shall be filed by August 16, 2024; and

(f) The final approval hearing is hereby scheduled for September 27, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., 174 Federal Building, 410 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Dated: April 2, 2024

/s/ Paul L. Maloney
Honorable Judge Paul L. Maloney
United States District Judge